

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0013] and [0053] in the specification as follows:

[0013] In overview, according to one or more embodiments, a tin mesoporphyrin compound is reacted with one or more amino acids in a solution such as a basic solution to produce water-soluble amino-acid complexes of tin mesoporphyrin or stannosporfin. According to one or more embodiments, tin (IV) mesoporphyrin IX (or stannosporfin) can be obtained according to a variety of methods, for example, through the methods disclosed in co-pending United States patent application serial number 10/453,815, filed on June 3, 2003, now United States Patent Number 6,818,763 which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. However, it will be understood that other methods can be used to produce mesoporphyrin halides such as tin mesoporphyrin IX dichloride, and the present invention is not limited to a particular method of mesoporphyrin production.

[0053] For example, we have prepared and reacted a number of amino acids with tin-mesoporphyrin in the presence of NaOH. The material isolated from these reactions have been examined by ^1H NMR and UV/VIS (ultraviolet and visible) spectroscopy, as well as comparing the solubilities of the reaction products have also been compared to the solubilities of their respective starting materials, to determine whether an amino acid-tin-mesoporphyrin complex forms ~~form~~ from such a reaction.